

Jesus is...

Leader Conversation Guide – Jesus is... The Vine

Main Idea

In John 15, Jesus uses the powerful image of a vine and branches to describe what a life of faith is meant to look like. He reminds His followers that He is the true vine, the source of life, strength, and growth, while we are the branches. Just as a branch cannot survive or produce fruit on its own, our lives cannot bear lasting spiritual fruit apart from a close connection to Jesus. God, the gardener, lovingly tends to our lives, removing what is unfruitful and pruning what is growing so that it can become even more fruitful.

This week's message reminded us that the key to a fruitful life is learning to remain in Jesus. When we stay connected to Him, through His Word, His presence, and the work of the Holy Spirit, our lives begin to reflect His character and produce the kind of fruit that honors God. Love, joy, peace, patience, and other spiritual fruit grow naturally from a life rooted in Christ. As we begin our discussion, let's reflect on what it looks like to stay connected to Jesus and allow Him to shape our lives so that we bear fruit that brings glory to God.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

JOHN 15:5

Make it Practical:

1. Jesus is the Source of a Fruitful Life (John 15:1–5, John 10:10).

- Jesus describes Himself as the true vine and His followers as the branches—our spiritual life and growth come from staying connected to Him.
- Apart from Jesus, we cannot produce lasting spiritual fruit or experience the fullness of life He offers.

2. God Grows Us Through His Word and Pruning (John 15:2–3, Hebrews 4:12).

- God, the gardener, lovingly removes what is unfruitful and prunes what is growing so that our lives can become even more fruitful.
- His Word cleans, shapes, and examines our hearts, helping us grow into the people He created us to be.

3. Remaining in Jesus Produces Spiritual Fruit (John 15:7–12, Galatians 5:22–23, Philippians 1:11).

- When we remain in Jesus, our lives begin to reflect His character through the fruit of the Spirit.
- Abiding in Christ means listening to His Word, obeying His commands, and loving others the way He loves us.
- A fruitful life brings glory to God and shows that we are truly His disciples.

Talk About It

Jesus says that apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5). What are some ways people try to produce spiritual growth or purpose on their own, and how does staying connected to Jesus change that approach?

Jesus talks about the Father pruning branches so they can bear more fruit (John 15:2). Have you ever experienced a season where God was removing or reshaping something in your life? What did you learn through that process?

In John 15, Jesus connects remaining in Him with loving others the way He loves us (John 15:9–12). What are some practical ways we can demonstrate that kind of love in our everyday relationships this week?

A fruitful life isn't achieved through striving harder—it grows naturally when we stay closely connected to Jesus. When we remain in Him, His life flows through us and produces the fruit that honors God.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for reminding us that Jesus is the True Vine and that our lives are meant to stay connected to Him. Help us to remain in Christ each day, trusting You to shape us, grow us, and produce fruit in our lives that honors You. Give us hearts that are open to Your Word and willing to follow where You lead.

Lord, as we leave this time together, teach us to rely on You in every area of our lives. Prune away anything that keeps us from growing and help us to reflect Your love to the people around us. May our lives bear fruit that brings glory to Your name. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Next Steps

Spend intentional time with Jesus each day.

- Set aside time this week to read John 15:1–11 and pray, asking God to help you stay connected to Him. Focus on building a consistent rhythm of being in God's Word and in His presence.

Identify areas where God may be pruning your life.

- Ask God to reveal habits, attitudes, or distractions that may be hindering your spiritual growth. Invite Him to shape and refine you so that your life can bear more fruit.

Practice Christlike love in a tangible way.

- Jesus connects abiding in Him with loving others. Choose one practical way this week to show intentional love—encourage someone, serve a need, or extend grace in a difficult relationship.